

Current Class: UNCLASSIFIED
Current Handling: SBU

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PTO6178

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ACTION WHA-00

RELEASED IN PART

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INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	CIAE-00	CTME-00	DODE-00	ITCE-00	SRPP-00
	EB-00	EXME-00	E-00	UTED-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00
	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00
	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00	SAS-00	/007W		

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O 111046Z APR 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5427
INFO DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC//OASIA//
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY QUITO

UNCLAS CARACAS 000965

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ECON, PGOV, PREL, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELA'S WORK STOPPAGE - CREATION OF AN OPPOSITION
COORDINATING COMMITTEE

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED, PLEASE HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

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SUMMARY

1. (SBU) A BROAD RANGE OF OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS MEETING AT FEDECAMARAS HEADQUARTERS IN THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 10TH MADE A UNANIMOUS DECISION TO FORM A COORDINATING COMMITTEE THAT WILL DIRECT OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES AND SPEAK TO THE GOVERNMENT WITH ONE VOICE. LATER IN THE DAY AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, [REDACTED] INSISTED THAT PRESIDENT CHAVEZ IS STRIVING FOR MODERATION, BUT IF THE OPPOSITION DECLARES AN UNLIMITED "GENERAL STRIKE," UNSPECIFIED "VIOLENCE WILL OCCUR." END SUMMARY.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 30 AUG 2004 200400110

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"... TO RESCUE VENEZUELA'S FREEDOM AND LIBERTY..."

2. (SBU) FOLLOWING A TELEVISED NEWS CONFERENCE IN WHICH PEDRO CARMONA, PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FEDECAMARAS, AND CARLOS ORTEGA, PRESIDENT OF LABOR CONFEDERATION CTV, ANNOUNCED THEY WERE CONSIDERING TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORK STOPPAGE INTO AN UNLIMITED GENERAL STRIKE, A BROAD RANGE OF OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS MET IN A 2-HOUR STRATEGY SESSION. THE END RESULT OF A SPIRITED AND EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF THE "PARO" AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS WAS A DECISION TO IMMEDIATELY ESTABLISH A "COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY" AND THE APPROVAL OF ITS DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.

3. (SBU) IN A UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, THE PARTICIPANTS APPROVED THE COMMITTEE'S PURPOSE AS "THE RESCUE OF VENEZUELA'S FREEDOM AND
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LIBERTY, AND THE COORDINATION OF ALL OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES." AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE CHAIR, THE ATTENDEES STOOD AND TOOK A PLEDGE OF UNITY. THE POLITICAL PARTIES PRESENT AT THE MEETING INCLUDED:
ACCION DEMOCRATICA (AD)
MOVIMIENTO AL SOCIALISMO (MAS)
PROYECTO VENEZUELA
COPEI
PRIMERO JUSTICIA
ALIANZA BRAVO PUEBLO (ABP)

"PRESIDENT CHAVEZ IS THE MODERATE..."

4. (SBU) AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LATER IN THE DAY, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TOLD ECONOFF THAT HE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE COURSE EVENTS WERE TAKING. HE INSISTED THAT PRESIDENT CHAVEZ WAS THE TRUE MODERATE IN THE CRISIS AND HAD OVER THE PREVIOUS MONTHS TRIED "NUMEROUS" TIMES TO COMMENCE A DIALOGUE WITH THE VARIOUS OPPOSITION PLAYERS, BUT WAS CONSISTENTLY REBUFFED. EARLIER IN THE DAY, THE PRESIDENT'S INNER CIRCLE EVEN DISCUSSED A PROPOSAL TO START A "MEDIATION TABLE" TO BE MODERATED BY AN UNSPECIFIED UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, BUT THE HARDENING POSITION OF THE OPPOSITION HAD NOW RENDERED THE IDEA "IMPOSSIBLE."

5. (SBU) [REDACTED] HOPED THAT THE OPPOSITION MARCH SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 AM, APRIL 11 FROM PARQUE DEL ESTE TO PDVSA HEADQUARTERS IN CHACAO WOULD PROVE TO BE THE DENOUEMENT OF THE CURRENT CRISIS. HE WAS HOPING THE APPROACH OF THE WEEKEND WOULD ALLOW TEMPER TO FALL AND PROVIDE BREATHING SPACE FOR RECONSIDERATION BY BOTH SIDES.

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[REDACTED] CONVINCED THE COUNTRY SIMPLY COULD NOT SUSTAIN ITS
CURRENT LEVEL OF TENSION. [REDACTED] STATED VERY SERIOUSLY THAT
IF THE OPPOSITION DECLARED AN UNLIMITED GENERAL STRIKE,
UNSPECIFIED "VIOLENCE WILL OCCUR."

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SHAPIRO

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